

# BEAR FACTS

## Planning Trends and Information for California State Parks

October 2001

### Environmental Justice

The past three decades of environmental advocacy and policymaking have witnessed much success, including several landmark laws and significant environmental improvements. But environmental policymaking is today more complex, more demanding and at times more economically driven due in part to public advocacy. At the first Earth Day in April 1970 (many of us remember it vividly!), equity was barely a visible theme. Today, both policymakers and the well-established environmental movement must grapple with "environmental justice" and the demands that it be accorded to low-income and culturally diverse communities.

A recent study by the California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV) Education Fund released results showing for the first time that 70% of California voters believe government officials are more likely to allow polluters to operate in communities  
*(continued on page 2)*

***"I look forward to an America which will not be afraid of grace and beauty, which will protect the beauty of our natural environment, which will preserve the great old American houses and squares and parks of our national past and which will build handsome and balanced cities for our future."***

***John F. Kennedy  
Amherst College 1963***

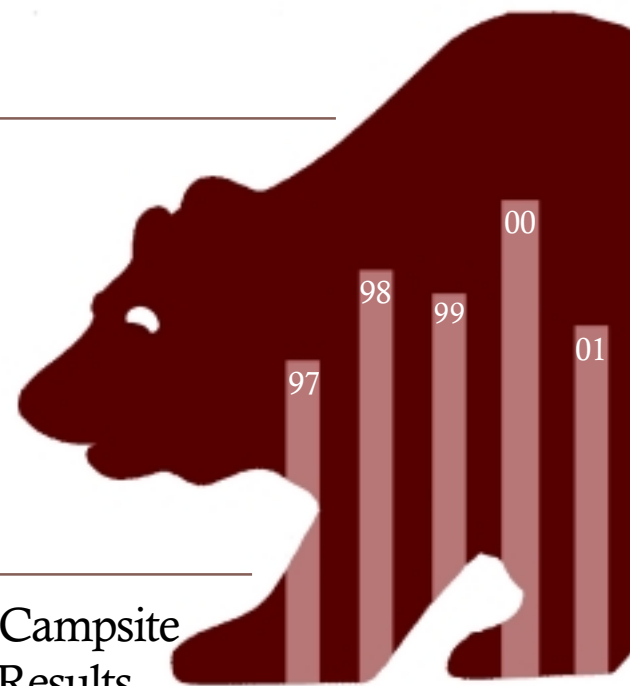
BEAR FACTS – October 2001

### Family Campsite Survey Results

Traditionally, family camping has been an important activity in state park units. Many campers have memories of togetherness, campfire programs and sleeping under the stars with family and friends. Knowing this rich history makes it surprising to discover that a minimal number of family campsites have been added to the State Park System in the last decade.

The Planning Division's recent telephone survey of the System's districts shows that during the last decade the State Park System gained 510 family campsites and lost 239. The decade's net gain of 271 averages a mere 27 per year. With a system-wide family campsite inventory of approximately 13,500 sites, this is an increase of slightly over 2.1% for the decade. During this same period the state's population increased by 12.4%, a rate that is more than six times greater. Clearly, the State Park System is less adequately providing the public with family camping facilities than it was in 1990.

There are some interesting details behind the numbers. Few new facilities of any kind, including campsites, were developed during the recession of the early to mid-1990s. In the last ten years, only one large campsite project was completed, 160 new sites at San Onofre SB. Only three of the decade's five smaller projects were both built by and paid for by State Parks – 64 at Manresa SB, 48 at Millerton Lake SRA and 40 at Malibu Creek SP. The other two projects, 44 sites at Lake Oroville SRA were funded by the Department of Water Re  
*(continued on page 2)*




***(Environmental Justice continued)***

of color and low income communities, and less likely to enforce existing environmental laws in those communities. The same survey suggested that 88% of California voters are at least somewhat concerned about California's environmental quality and that Latino and voters of color in general are more likely than other voters to support environmental protection. No, these are not mixed messages, but rather revealing that people of the culturally diverse communities we serve are interested in the environment, are suspicious of how decisions are made, and want to have a say in protecting the environment and the rich resources of the state.

What does this have to do with California State Parks and specifically the Planning Division? Our Department's "Vision" for the future calls for State Parks to be relevant to the diverse communities we are trying to serve. We must understand that many of those communities are faced with real-life concerns about pollution in their own backyards and neighborhoods.

The Department's Urban Strategy represents a significant change of direction for parkland acquisition, including the cleanup of brownfields, to better serve the recreation needs of people in highly urbanized areas. These urban communities often represent people of diverse ethnic backgrounds and low incomes. The Urban Strategy clearly is on track to address the concerns identified in the CLCV study.

Through this newsletter and other forums we are hoping to delve more deeply into this issue and some of the related themes that overlap with our mission and our vision for the State Park System. We hope that if you have any thoughts, you will send them to our attention. In future articles we hope to share more data and trends that will help us focus on community concerns.


Send your thoughts on this subject to Ed Navarro at [enava@parks.ca.gov](mailto:enava@parks.ca.gov) or fax them to him at (916) 653-4458. 

***(Campsite Survey continued)***

sources and 43 sites at Lime Kiln SP were existing on the newly acquired property. The rest of the decade's gains in the System's campsite inventory came from very modest campground expansions and redesigns.

Most of the loss of 239 family campsites involved small numbers of sites in a wide variety of parks. The reasons for these losses included such things as storm damage, habitat restoration, correction of design problems and the designation of camp host sites. Another factor was the return of former picnic areas from campsites back to picnic sites after revenue generation demands from the early 1990s were relaxed.

The district personnel who responded to the survey indicated that a number of park-specific factors would inhibit a substantial future expansion of the family campsite inventory in their districts. Perhaps surprisingly, most of these factors were unrelated to the availability of funding. Key among them were the lack of suitable sites on existing parkland – unsuitable due to poor topography or resource conflicts. Also critical was the lack of staff to manage any new sites. Some respondents said that a higher priority than adding new family camping facilities should be to add new group campsites. Some called for the redesign of some existing family camp units to better accommodate today's recreational vehicles, an effort which would constitute no net gain in the total number of sites.

The Department's current multi-year capital outlay program shows very few new family campsites scheduled to be constructed in the near future. Small projects in three parks are expected to create a total of between 50 to 57 new family camping units by 2003. Design proposals beyond that date are still too general to determine how many sites may be created. Under the best of circumstances, however, there will not be very many, since the bond act emphasizes facility rehabilitation over new construction and bond act funds are rapidly dwindling. 

## Which Park and Why?

The names of the State Park System's classified units and unclassified properties reflect a wealth of history and a variety of connections with the larger world. Some of this is widely known and some is fairly arcane; and bits of it are almost amazing. To test both the reader's knowledge and imagination, here are a half dozen questions whose answer will be the name of one or more park units. This set of questions will focus on music and literature.

Which unit or units:

- Was the actual setting for western author Wallace Stegner's 1971 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel Angle of Repose?
- Was the major port of call in Richard Henry Dana's dramatic seafaring account (1842) Two Years Before the Mast?
- Was the site through which passed many of the characters in Giacomo Puccini's 1910 opera La Fanciulla del West?
- Was named after the actual subject of British author Aldous Huxley's 1939 *roman à clef* novel After Many A Summer Dies the Swan?
- Was the locale of the short-term residence of a nineteenth century Scottish adventurer and writer of popular children's books?
- Was named after a person closely associated with liturgical music?

(Answers on page 7)

### All-Agency Park Reference Guide

Mike Young at the Field Services Division has produced a list of more than 2000 California parks and facilities, their operating agencies and phone numbers. The hard-copy version is available to DPR offices by contacting Mike at (916) 653-4272. An electronic version, with email updates, is available also and will be provided for requests from outside DPR.



## California's Top Attractions

From California Tourism's *Fast Facts 2001*

### Top 10 State Parks

(Based on 1999/2000 Fiscal Year visitation)

Santa Monica State Beach .....	9,723,399
Old Town San Diego State Historic Park .....	9,068,971
Seacliff State Beach .....	3,479,347
Dockweiler State Beach .....	3,252,916
Bolsa Chica State Beach .....	2,588,587
Sonoma Coast State Beach .....	2,214,402
Huntington State Beach .....	2,155,879
Will Rogers State Beach .....	2,059,413
Mount Tamalpais State Park .....	2,040,515
Folsom Lake State Recreation Area .....	1,662,456

### Top 10 National Park Facilities

(Based on 2000 visitation)

Golden Gate National Recreation Area .....	14,486,000
San Francisco Maritime Museum .....	3,433,100
Yosemite National Park .....	3,401,000
Point Reyes National Seashore .....	2,325,500
Joshua Tree National Park .....	1,234,000
Death Valley National Park .....	1,179,100
Cabrillo National Monument .....	1,136,400
Sequoia National Park .....	819,900
Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area .....	702,800
Channel Islands National Park .....	482,600

### Top 10 California Amusement/Theme Parks

(Based on 2000 attendance)

Disneyland, Anaheim .....	13,900,000
Universal Studios Hollywood .....	5,200,000
Sea World, San Diego .....	3,600,000
Knott's Berry Farm, Buena Park .....	3,456,000
Six Flags Magic Mountain, Valencia ..	3,300,000
Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk .....	3,000,000
Six Flags Marine World, Vallejo .....	2,100,000
Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey ....	1,830,076
Paramount's Great America .....	1,800,000
Legoland, Carlsbad .....	1,450,000

To view more *Fast Facts 2001*, go to [www.visitcalifornia.com/research](http://www.visitcalifornia.com/research).

## BOOK REVIEW:

### *Inside City Parks*

The pushcart vendor applying for a permit to sell hot dogs and pretzels in New York's Central Park may be in for sticker shock. A choice location, like the entrance to the famed Metropolitan Museum of Art, will cost the vendor almost \$200,000 a year. In Peter Harnik's book *Inside City Parks*, this is but one example of how parks have become big business in some of America's big cities. This book takes the reader on a very interesting cross-country tour of 25 urban park and recreation systems. It provides the reader with specific examples of why, in the author's opinion, some are succeeding and others are not.

By way of examples, the author tells us that most cities are bouncing back from the economic problems of the 1980's and early 1990's, and their parks are assuming a new level of importance. Successful city park and recreation programs are often linked to the support of a strong mayor, often working with a creative and energetic park and recreation administrator. Chicago's Mayor Richard M. Daley is but one of several examples cited. Or, success may depend on highly motivated citizens groups working with private financial donations, as in Boston where such an organization took on the task of saving the parks when the City was unable or unwilling to do so.

Minneapolis, according to the author, "may come closer to urban park nirvana than any other metropolis in the United States." It boasts a high ratio of park acres per thousand residents, and it spends more on parks per capita than any of the other 25 cities, except for Seattle. This success can be attributed to the city's very early start in providing parks (1883), to community cohesion and leadership, a homogenous population, and a culture and economy that have made it easier to reach political consensus on parks.

The book presents compelling evidence of how much the park situation varies from city to city. Even today when the nation's economy is generally very good, some of the urban cities like Cleve-


land, Detroit and Baltimore have not prospered, and their park and recreation systems show it. A prosperous economy, however is not always a recipe for successful parks. In Miami, for example, the local economy is booming yet the city government is impoverished, spending 72% of its budget on police and fire protection. As a result, the parks are looked upon as a source of city revenue and often leased to developers looking for locations for new restaurants, sports stadiums and entertainment complexes.

The author often identifies what he perceives to be problems with the 25 park systems studied. In Los Angeles, for example, he criticizes the city for a lack of past planning and leadership. He claims that park funding is typically equally divided between small projects in districts of the 15 city council members, leaving little money for large parks that would benefit the whole city. As a result, much of the energy and money sparked by park and environmental advocates has shifted to park projects outside the city, including the Santa Monica Mountains. In addition, some traditional park projects in the city have been taken over by non-park agencies. The city's first rails-to-trails project, for example, was administered by the Department of Environmental Affairs, working in concert with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Department of Transportation and the University of Southern California. In spite of its problems, the author is optimistic about the future of Los Angeles, citing its "can-do" spirit as one reason to believe that this city and its parks can thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The heart of the book is a set of 18 tables that provide a park and recreation data set for the 25 cities. Included are populations, park and open space acreage, park and recreation budgets, and numbers of employees, recreation facilities, swimming pools and tennis courts. The author concludes that this data can be used as a basis for developing an accurate picture of park systems in big cities, and such information can and should be used to improve the existing park systems and to plan for the systems of tomorrow. Toward that end, the author identifies several "lessons" that he hopes the readers can glean from the book, lessons that can be stored in their planning tool kit:


### *(Inside City Parks continued)*

- There's Nothing More Important Than a Vision
  - Moving from a Vision to Reality Requires a Plan
  - Nothing Happens without Leadership
  - Parks Have True Value That Can Be Measured in Dollars and Cents
  - To Find a Great Park Department, Look for an Entrepreneurial Attitude
  - To Find a Great Park System, Look for a Commitment to Improvement

The book has 214 pages, including many good quality color photographs and easy-to-read maps and charts. It is available through the Urban Land Institute at [www.uli.org](http://www.uli.org), and is a worthwhile read for all park and recreation professional and land use planners. 

## Draft State Park System Plan

The State Park System Plan has been drafted by the Planning Division and circulated internally among Division Chiefs. This new plan looks at what the State Park System is today, and examines the problems and opportunities facing us. It provides recommendations for actions and programs that will best serve the System, its resources, and the public over the course of the next ten years. The plan sets goals and priorities that should be equally valid in economic times that are good or not so good.


The new State Park System plan describes what is intended for the future and how these ends may be achieved. It is a generalized guidebook, a roadmap for a wide range of decisionmakers, concerned organizations, other public agencies, interested citizens and to the staff members who are responsible for managing the State Park System. The final plan will be available late this year or early next year. 



## California Recreational Trails Plan

The long-awaited California Recreational Trails Plan was unveiled at the California Trails and Greenways Conference in early September. The California Recreational Trails Committee discussed the plan at their public meeting during the conference.

The Trails Plan identifies 12 goals for statewide trails: Funding, Trail Inventories, Regional and Statewide Land Use Planning, Advocacy and Collaboration, Research, Stewardship, Public Use, Accessibility, Multi-Use Trails, Private Property, Program Leadership, and the decades-old California Riding and Hiking Trail. Action Guidelines are included for each of the goals.

The Trails Plan is now available for public review. Check the DPR website for a copy. During the next California Recreational Trails Committee meeting (tentatively scheduled for January, 2002), public comment will be taken and recommendations regarding the plan made to the Director. 

## Trails Conference

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual California Trails and Greenways Conference was held from September 7-9, at Lake Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mountains. The popular conference, organized by DPR's Statewide Trails Office, brings together trail advocates, supporters and users from dozens of nonprofit and numerous local, state and federal government agencies.

The conference included an all-day grant application writing seminar and a day in the sunshine working on a trail project at nearby Silverwood Lake SRA. Shorter sessions covered subjects ranging from trail liability and accessibility to working with contractors and identifying and working with environmental thresholds. Informal caucuses brought together smaller groups interested in everything from multi-use trail conflicts to equestrians in an urban environment.

Next year's Trails Conference will be held September 5-8, 2002 at Granlibakken in Tahoe City. 

## The Purpose of Each Park

Over the last 50 years, the Department has prepared no fewer than 934 purpose statements for the classified units and (more recently) for the major unclassified properties of the State Park System. These statements, averaging a few sentences and about 200 words each, serve as the most basic unit-level identification of a park's features and values, and of the department's intentions in the management of those resources.

### Vision

Over the last three years, all of these statements – or at least every one that could be found in the scattered hardcopy records – have been identified and consolidated in an Access database. Whether labeled as Declarations of Purpose, Statements of Purpose, Vision Statements or Sense of Place (or Spirit of Place) statements, all of these pronouncements have been added to the collection. The original materials have been found in a wide range of sources, in master plans, general development plans, general plans, resource elements, interpretive prospectuses, and former collections of such statements.

There is at least one statement for each of our 266 units, and for 21 of our 79 classified "internal units". There are also statements for some units that have been divested or combined with other units. Some units have only one purpose statement, while others may have five or six. Reading the various statements associated with any one unit gives the reader an insight as to our evolving views about the unit, the various reasons for developing such a statement, and even the writing styles that prevailed at different times.

The database is organized on a unit-by-unit basis, with each of a unit's purpose statements identified as to its original source, along with the date on which it was approved. The Purpose State-

### Sense of Place

## DECLARATION OF PURPOSE


ment database will soon be available on the Department's web page. Hard copy sets of these statements are available for the units of each district at the appropriate district office. Each regional service center has the collections of the statements for the districts it is responsible for, and the full set of 22 district collections is available at the Park Design and Construction Division and also at the Central Records Unit in Sacramento. The statements for any and all units may be special ordered by calling Bruce Kennedy of the Planning Division at (916) 653-9557.



### Spirit of Place

## Annual Milestones Report Issued

Fresh off the press is the 7/1/01 edition of the Planning Division's annual report *Planning Milestones for the Park Units and Major Properties Associated with the California State Park System*. This is a compendium of information about the great amount of planning that has been done for the 266 units of today's State Park System, as well as a bit of history about many of the units. It also contains similar information about the nearly 200 other units and properties that have in the past been associated with the system. And, for the first time, this publication contains current data on park acreage.

This publication, and its colorful 20 x 24" map of the park system, were initially distributed in mid-August. Readers who did not get a copy but need one should contact Laurie Taylor at (916) 653-9901. 



An excerpt from ***The Millennial Generation***  
Neil Howe and William Strauss

"Three childhood afflictions have grown dramatically over the Millennial child era:

- ◆ **Asthma** – From 1980 to 1994, the reported rate for asthma among children under age 4 has risen by 160%; and among children aged 5 to 14 by 75%.
- ◆ **Obesity** – Health experts chose a fixed ratio of height to weight that defined 5 percent of children in 1960 as 'obese.' Using the same ratio, by 1994 the incidence of obesity had risen to 12-14% for grade school kids – roughly a 250% increase.
- ◆ **Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)** – An estimated 3 to 5% of school-age kids – one or two students per classroom – are now diagnosed with ADD or its "hyperactive" variant ADHD. Since 1990, Ritalin prescriptions have risen eightfold, and some 3 million Millennial kids – roughly 80% of them boys – are believed to take the drug regularly.

All three of these childhood afflictions have been directly and credibly linked to the more structured, regimented, and indoor lifestyle of today's children and teens – a lifestyle that results in less free play at recess, less unsupervised exercise, and less unorganized outdoor activity."

### High School Students Taking a Daily Gym Class

**1991: 42%**

**1997: 27%**

Park managers can take note of the needs implied in these statistics. We must ask ourselves, "How can we provide a safe place to play?" "How can we provide more active recreation programs for the youths who need them most?" "What can we do to change these alarming health trends?"

## Answers and Explanations for "Which Park and Why" on page 3

**Empire Mine SHP.** This historical novel, based on fact, concerns the relationship between the all-business mining engineer who managed this mine and his wife, with her very different East Coast sensibilities.

**Monterey SHP.** While Dana's ship did briefly stop at the port of San Diego, a much larger share of his narrative relates his activities in and around the town of Monterey, the region's principal sea port and *de facto* capitol of Mexican Alta California.

**Old Town Sacramento and Sutter's Fort SHPs.** In Puccini's *The Girl of the Golden West*, the story takes place in the Sierra goldfields circa 1849-50, and most of the central characters would have gotten to the diggings by coming up the Sacramento River and going through what are now these units.

**Hearst San Simeon SHP and William Randolph Hearst Memorial SB.** The novel concerns a fantastically wealthy and powerful man who believes that his youthfulness will be extended by means of the drawn-out construction of a fabulous mansion on the California coast. The fictional mansion's architect was a woman, as Julia Morgan was the designer of Hearst Castle.

**Robert Louis Stevenson SHP.** His book of sketches, "Silverado Squatters," describes the life and times of the miners operating in and around what is now this park unit, located at the north end of the Napa Valley. Stevenson wrote *Kidnapped* and *Treasure Island*, and a number of books about his South Seas adventures.

**San Gregorio SB.** The sainted Pope Gregory I (AD540? – 604) accomplished, among many other things, the systematization of the many then-existing forms of the liturgical plainsong which were used in the Roman Catholic church, the result of which is today commonly known as Gregorian chant.





## Bear Facts

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## What Superintendents Said . . .

At the State Park Superintendents' Conference in March 2001, some 44 participants were surveyed about specific training needs for district employees who are involved in planning and community liaison activities. This survey originated from the Strategic Objective of increasing the Department's leadership role in parks and recreation.

According to the Superintendents, the training needs of greatest importance, in order of priority, are:

- ◆ CEQA and Environmental Compliance
- ◆ Permitting Requirements
- ◆ Community Relations and Management of Public Meetings
- ◆ Defensive Planning
- ◆ City and County Land Use Planning
- ◆ Trend Analysis
- ◆ Grants Management and Solicitation

As a result, the Park Operations Policy Group has approved a 24 to 32 hour training class designed to address these subjects for district employees.

**This "Planning and Community Liaison" course is being offered in the early 2002.** District Superintendents will select attendees.

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